

Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton
New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31
2005

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Town of Benton, N.H.

Annual Report of Town Officers
Year Ended December 31, 2005

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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS

		Term	Exp. Date
Board of Selectmen:	Marjorie L. Robitzer	3 yrs.	2006
	Albert Boutin, Jr.	3 yrs.	2007
	Jeremy Elliott	3 yrs	2008
Moderator:	Gilbert Richardson	2 yrs.	2006
Town Clerk:	Michael Stiebitz	1 yr.	2006
Treasurer:	Richard Dickenson	1 yr.	2006
Auditor:	Robert Steel	1 yr.	2006
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards	1 yr.	2006
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Penny Chicoine	3 yrs	2006
	Arthur Christopher	3 Yrs.	2007
	Tracy Cimikowski	3 yrs	2008
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 yr.	2006
Ballot Clerk:	Steven Saffo	1 yr.	2006
Ballot Inspector:	Maxine Tyler	1 yr.	2006
Trustees of the Trust Funds:	Jeffrey Elliott	3 yrs.	2006
	Martin Noble	3 yrs.	2007
	Laura Richardson	3 yrs.	2008
Planning Board:	John Richwagen	5 yrs	2006
	Kenneth Kealey	5 yrs.	2007
	Richard Saffo, Sr.	5 yrs.	2008
	Philip Chicoine	5 yrs.	2009
	Jeremy Elliott -	Ex Officio Member	
Sexton:	Phillip Chicoine	1 Yr.	2006
	Marty Noble - Assistant	1 Yr.	2006
Police Officer:	Stefan Cimikowski - appointed by Selectmen		
Emergency Management	Stefan Cimikowski - appointed by Selectmen		

**WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

GRAFTON SS

MARCH 14, 2006

TOWN OF BENTON

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BENTON QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN TOWN AFFAIRS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO MEET AT THE BENTON COMMUNITY BUILDING IN SAID BENTON ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF MARCH NEXT, THE 14TH, AT SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING TO VOTE AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

ARTICLE 1 TO CHOOSE A TOWN CLERK, A TREASURER, A TAX COLLECTOR, AN AUDITOR, A BALLOT CLERK, A BALLOT INSPECTOR, A SEXTON, AN ASSISTANT TO THE SEXTON, A SURVEYOR OF WOOD AND LUMBER FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR, A MODERATOR FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, A TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS, A SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECK LIST AND A SELECTMAN FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS AND ANY OTHER AGENTS OR OFFICERS NECESSARY FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

ARTICLE 2 TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND AGENTS AS PRINTED.

ARTICLE 3 TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO CHANGE THE PURPOSE OF AN EXISTING WIRING FUND FOR THE TOWN HALL TO A BUILDING FUND SO THAT WE CAN USE THE UNUSED BALANCE TO IMPROVE THE INSULATION IN THE TOWN HALL. THE WIRING FUND WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2002. THIS ARTICLE NEEDS A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO CARRY.

THE SELECTMEN RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE.

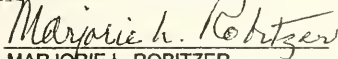
ARTICLE 4 TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$5,000 TO BE ADDED TO THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR ROADS.

THE SELECTMEN RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE.

ARTICLE 5 TO SEE IF THE TOWN WILL VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$76,998 FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS.

THE SELECTMEN RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE.

A TRUE COPY - ATTEST
SELECTMEN OF BENTON


MARJORIE L. ROBITZER


ALBERT J. BOUTIN


JEREMY A. ELLIOTT

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS
Estimate of Revenue

Sources of Revenue	Est. 2005	Rec. 2005	Est. 2006
Yield Taxes	\$5,000	\$10,331	\$9,000
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	4,000	3,350	3,000
Motor Vehicle Registrations	40,000	47,750	40,000
Building & Other Permits	200	260	260
Dog Licenses & Fines	400	400	400
White Mountain Nat'l Forest	27,000	29,980	29,900
State of New Hampshire			
Shared Revenue	1,600	1,605	1,600
Rooms & Meals Tax	9,500	11,825	9,500
Highway Block Grant	11,977	11,977	11,671
Income From Trust Funds	160	134	130
Interest	450	355	350
Traffic Fines	0	32	0
Totals	\$100,287	\$117,999	\$105,811

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Estimate of Expenditures

Category	Approp.	Expend	Proposed
Selectmen & Expenses	\$1,600	\$1,493	\$1,600
Elections	600	53	600
Financial Administration	7,000	4,545	7,000
Legal Expenses	1,000		1,000
Planning Board	200		200
Community Building	2,800	2,532	3,200
Cemeteries	900		900
Insurance & Bonds	2,100	1,484	2,100
Regional Associations	900	862	900
Police Protection	3,450	2,080	4,300
Dispatch Service	1,175	1,182	1,200
Ambulance	3,298	3,298	3,298
Fire Protection	2,500	3,085	3,500
Roads	35,000	40,341	40,000
Social Services	2,400	1,399	2,400
Interest	500		500
Assessing	1,400	810	1,400
Unemployment, Soc. Sec. & Medicare	604	837	900
Mowing Roadside	2,000	1,977	2,000
Totals	\$69,427	\$65,978	\$76,998
Wiring Fund in Non-lapsing Account	\$1,375.00		
Plus amount added - 2005	2,000.00		
	\$3,375.00		
Expenditures - 2005	2,173.00		
Remaining	\$1,202.00		
Cemetery Fund in Non-lapsing Account	\$824.00		

Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures

Approp. Expended Unexpended Overdraft

	Approp.	Expended	Unexpended	Overdraft
Selectmen & Expenses	\$1,600	\$1,493	\$107	
Elections	600	53	547	
Financial Administration	7,000	4,545	2,455	
Legal and Damage Expenses	1,000		1,000	
Planning Board	200		200	
Community Building	2,800	2,532	268	
Cemeteries	900		900	
Insurance & Bonds	2,100	1,485	615	
Regional Organizations	900	862	38	
Police Protection	3,450	2,080	1,370	
Dispatch, Grafton Co. Sheriff's Dept.	1,175	1,182		7
Ambulance Service	3,298	3,298		
Social Services	2,400	1,399	1,001	
Fire Protection	2,500	3,085		585
Roads	35,000	40,341		5,341
Interest	500		500	
Assessing	1,400	810	590	
Unemployment Ins. Soc. Sec & Medicare	604	599	5	
Mowing Roadsides	2,000	1,977	23	
Totals	\$69,427	\$65,741	\$9,619	\$5,933
Overdraft Covered By \$2,856				

Treasurer's Report

Received from Tax Collector:

Property taxes (Year 2002)	\$5,257.92	
Interest and costs	1,940.54	
Total 2002		\$7,198.46

Property taxes (Year 2003)	\$7,010.13	
Interest and costs	104.46	
Total 2003		\$7,114.59

Property taxes (Year 2004)	\$35,986.36	
Interest and costs	617.60	
Total 2004		\$36,603.96

Property taxes (Year 2005)	\$139,437.19	
Interest	681.35	
Total 2005		\$140,118.54

Yield Tax Collections		\$10,330.91
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Total from Tax Collector		\$201,366.46
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Received from the Town Clerk:

Motor Vehicle Permits	\$47,574.00	
Motor Vehicle Transfers	175.00	
Vital Statistics - St. of N.H.	16.00	
Dog Licenses issued	365.50	
Fines & Penalties	18.00	
Clerk Fees	48.00	

Total from Town Clerk		\$48,196.50
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Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

Received from the Selectmen:

Pistol Permits	\$50.00
Building Permits	90.00
Hall Rental	45.00
Beautify Benton Committee (Reinb. Elect)	75.00

Total from Selectmen	\$260.00
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Received from State & Federal Sources

St. of N. H. - Revenue Sharing	\$1,605.00
St. of N. H. - Hwy. Block Grant	11,976.52
St. of N. H. - Rooms & Meals Tax	11,828.43
U.S. Dept. of Ag., Forest Service	29,980.00

Total Received from State & Federal Sources	\$55,389.95
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Misc. Receipts

Deposit from the Trust Fund Acct.	\$162.44
Refund of Workman's Comp.	174.94
Traffic fines	32.00
Bank Chgs. for Insufficient Funds Checks	-685.00
Monies from the Yield Acct.	17,147.69

Total Misc. Receipts	\$16,832.07
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Total receipts for 2005	\$322,044.98
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Cash on hand as of 1/1/05	314,144.59
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Bank interest	354.55
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Less Selectmen's orders for 2001	\$388,353.13
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Year-end Total Cash	\$248,190.99
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Acct. 30502 - Yield Account:

Cash on hand - 1/1/05	\$14,124.09
Interest	20.74
Withdrawals	11395.07

Year-end Yield Acct. Balance	\$2,749.76
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Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Dickenson, Treasurer

Detailed Statement of Payments By The Selectmen

Selectmen:

Salaries:	Jeremy Elliott	\$400.00
	Marjorie L. Robitzer	600.00
	Albert J. Boutin, Jr.	400.00
Expenses:	Notices	93.00

\$1,493.00

Elections and Registrations:	Notices (3)	\$53.00
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Financial Administration:

Salaries:	Richard Dickenson, Treas.	\$400.00
	Robert Steel, Auditor	100.00
	Michael Stiebitz, Town Clerk	400.00
	Sharon Edwards, Tax Collector	400.00
	Joseph Boutin, Jr. Timber Overseer	200.00
	Phillip Chicoine, Sexton	500.00
	Stefan Cimikowski, Police Chief	50.00
Town Clerk Fees:	Michael Stiebitz	201.00
Animal Control:	Dr. Blaidell	70.00
Tuck Press:	Town Report	508.00
Assessing New Construction & Updates:		810.00
General Office Expenses:		1716.02

5355.02

Community Building:

Telephone	388.36
Electric	743.83
Oil Burner - Cleaning & Maint. plus Fuel Oil pre-pay	1400.00

\$2,532.19

Detailed Statement of Payments By The Selectmen

Selectmen:

Salaries:	Jeremy Elliott	\$400.00
	Marjorie L. Robitzer	600.00
	Albert J. Boutin, Jr.	400.00
Expenses:	Notices	93.00
		<hr/>
		\$1,493.00

Elections and Registrations:	Notices (3)	\$53.00
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Financial Administration:

Salaries:	Richard Dickenson, Treas.	\$400.00
	Robert Steel, Auditor	100.00
	Michael Stiebitz, Town Clerk	400.00
	Sharon Edwards, Tax Collector	400.00
	Joseph Boutin, Jr. Timber Overseer	200.00
	Phillip Chicoine, Sexton	500.00
	Stefan Cimikowski, Police Chief	50.00
Town Clerk Fees:	Michael Stiebitz	201.00
Animal Control:	Dr. Blaidell	70.00
Tuck Press:	Town Report	508.00
Assessing New Construction & Updates:		810.00
General Office Expenses:		1716.02
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		5355.02

Community Building:

Telephone	388.36
Electric	743.83
Oil Burner - Cleaning & Maint. plus Fuel Oil pre-pay	1400.00
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	\$2,532.19

Insurance and Bonds:	\$1,484.84
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Regional Associations:

N.H. Assoc. Of Assessing Officials:	\$20.00
N.H. Municipal Assoc. (Local Gvmnt. Center)	533.45
North Country Council	268.02
N.H. Assoc. Of Tax Collectors	20.00
N.H. Town Clerks Assoc.	20.00
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	\$861.47

Detailed Statement of Payments
By The Selectmen (Cont'd)

Police Account

N.H. Chiefs of Police Assoc.	100.00
Vehicle Costs	1800.00
AJ's PC - Radio Update	150.00
State of N.H.	30.00

\$2,080.00

Grafton Co. Sheriff's Dept. - Dispatch Service: \$1,181.40

Ambulance Service: \$3,297.60

Fire Protection

Twin Mountain Mutual Aid	\$1,000.00
Haverhill Corner Fire Co.	750.00
North Haverhill Fire Co.	1335.00

\$3,085.00

Tunnel Stream Road Bridge

Notices	\$234.00
EZ Steel	233.00
Lumber	131.63
Median Barrier & Culvert	471.45
Blaidell Gravel	1771.00
Richard Saffo	9600.00
Elliott Construction	3628.00
Paving	3200.00

\$19,269.08

Re-Wiring Town Hall \$2,173.20

Road-Side Mowing \$1,976.50

Roads:

Regular Maintenance	\$34,080.00
Materials and Supplies (Salt, Sand, Poly, Etc.)	6,260.93

\$40,340.93

Detailed Statement of Payments
By The Selectmen (Cont'd)

Social Services:

North Country Home Health	300.00
Tri-County Community Action	300.00
Grafton County Sr. Citizens Council	300.00
White Mountain Mental Health	300.00
Direct Aid	198.90

\$1,398.90

Taxes Bought By The Town:

\$9,350.81

Deposited to Capital Reserve Fund For Roads:

\$5,000.00

Deposited to Capital Reserve Fund For Future Re-evaluation:

3000.00

\$8,000.00

County Tax:

\$22,959.00

Schools:

\$260,447.22

Internal Revenue Service

\$558.76

Unemployment Tax:

St. of N.H.

Federal Gov.

90.33

Abatements & Refunds

\$643.19

Total

\$388,631.44

Total Checks Paid

\$388,353.13

Deducted from Paychecks - Social Security
and Medicare

\$278.31

Total

\$388,631.44

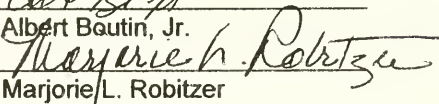
Selectmen of Benton:



Jeremy Elliott



Albert Boutin, Jr.



Marjorie L. Robitzer

TOWN OF BENTON

Tax Collector's Report - 2005

Year 2005

	Cr.	Dr.
Taxes Committed This Year:		
Property Taxes		\$181,399.34
Interest - Late Tax		4.80
Yield taxes		7,888.30
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$138,757.49	
Interest - Late Tax	4.80	
Yield Taxes	7,888.30	
	SubTotal	\$146,650.59
Taxes Uncollected at Year-end	\$42,641.85	
	Totals	\$189,292.44
		\$189,292.44

Year 2004

	Cr	Dr
Taxes Uncollected at Beginning of Year		\$35,162.90
Interest on Delinquent Taxes & Costs		1,823.19
Yield taxes		2,193.78
Yield tax interest		248.83
Taxes Collected & Sent to Treasurer		
Property Taxes	\$25,812.09	
Interest & Costs	1,823.19	
Conversion to lien	9,350.81	
Yield taxes	2,193.78	
Yield tax interest	248.83	
	Totals	\$39,428.70
		\$39,428.70

TOWN OF BENTON
Tax Collector's Report - 2005 (Cont'd)

	Cr.	Dr.
<u>Year 2004</u>		
Liens Executed During Fiscal Year		\$10,432.94
Remitted to Treasurer		
Redemptions	\$700.00	
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at End of Year	9,732.94	
	=====	=====
Totals	\$10,432.94	\$10,432.94
<u>Year 2003</u>		
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year		\$10,125.48
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution		785.71
Remitted to Treasurer		
Redemptions	\$7,010.13	
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	785.71	
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at End of Year	3,115.35	
	=====	=====
Totals	\$10,911.19	\$10,911.19
<u>Year 2002</u>		
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at Beginning of Year		\$5,441.64
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution		1,940.54
Remitted to Treasurer		
Redemptions	\$5,257.92	
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	1,940.54	
Unredeemed Liens Bal. at End of Year	183.72	
	=====	=====
Totals	\$7,382.18	\$7,382.18

NOTES:

Report of Clerk to Treasurer - Benton, New Hampshire

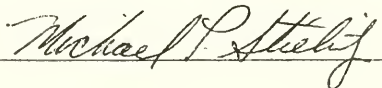
Year End Totals for 2005

Date: 12/29/2005

Motor Vehicle Permits Issued (402):	\$48,308.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (57/0):	\$392.50
Marriage Licenses Issued (0):	\$0.00
Vital Record Searches (2):	\$24.00
Fines/Penalties:	\$18.00
Reimbursed bounced check:	\$60.00
Total Collected by Town Clerk for 2005:	\$48,802.00

Motor Vehicles:	\$47,797.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (57/0):	\$365.50
Marriage Licenses Issued (0):	\$0.00
Vital Record Searches (2):	\$16.00
Fines/Penalties:	\$18.00
Reimbursed bounced check:	\$60.00
Total Submitted to the Treasurer for 2005:	\$48,256.50

Motor Vehicles:	\$511.00
Dog Licenses Issued and Fines Collected (57/0):	\$27.00
Marriage Licenses Issued (0):	\$0.00
Vital Record Searches (2):	\$8.00
Total Retained by Town Clerk for 2005:	\$546.00

 , Town Clerk

Notes From the Town Clerk's Office

During the past year, we have been the lucky recipients of several projects organized and funded by the "Beautify Benton Committee". Dick and Nellie Dickenson and Lyn Bandy replaced the front entrance to the Town Building with a new, well-fitting insulated door and sidelight assembly supplied by the Committee. They also replaced the entry ramp, which had weakened with age.

In addition, the original lighting in the main hall and on the stage has been replaced with very attractive fixtures which harken back to the early days of the schoolhouse. The committee also hired Valley Floors to replace the worn kitchen floor.

Much of the rewiring in the building, funded by the Town a year ago, has been completed. This includes improved lighting and a new ventilation fan in the bathroom, receptacles placed around the rooms eliminating the need for extension cords, and new switches and wiring for all of the overhead lights.

Later in the year, the bridge over Davis Brook was re-decked using funds appropriated at Town Meeting, through the efforts of Dan Elliott and Rich Saffo & Co.. The result is a much safer structure with guard rails which should extend the life of the bridge by many years.

A new entry fence was installed at the East Cemetery, and holiday wreaths were placed at our town cemeteries to honor our heritage.

Our phantom wreath supplier has been identified herself as Stephanie Saffo. For many years, a very attractive balsam fir wreath has appeared on the Town Building each Christmas holiday season. This year was no exception, but we now know who to thank! Thank you Stephanie!

Last but not least, we would like to recognize the "Beautify Benton Committee" for again organizing the "Memory Tree" campaign which resulted in the beautiful, brightly lit balsam fir in front of the Town Building. In addition, the Committee donated money to pay for the illumination. A portion of the group's funds were raised by past bake sales and community suppers.

Schedule of Non-Taxable Property

Town of Benton:

Crowther Lot	Map 2, Lot 52	0.3 acres	\$5,500
Mountain View Cemetery (Incl. Parker Field)	Map 1, Lot 113 & 114	2.2 acres	20,400
High Street Cemetery	Map 6, Lot 4	0.3 acres	500
East Cemetery	Map 1, Lot 29	0.3 acres	300
Old Town Hall Lot	Map 1, Lot 126	0.05 acres	5,200

Benton Town Hall, Land & Building	Map 1, Lot 18	0.2 acres	\$71,900
Benton Bible Chapel	Map 1, Lot 49	1.4 acres	\$211,300
Benton Bible Chapel Parsonage	Map 1, Lot 58	1.7 acres	\$94,300
No. Benton Union Soc.	Map 1, Lot 32	0.7 acres	\$8,500

State of New Hampshire:

LaBounty Home	Map 6, Lot 3	0.45 acres	\$12,000
Glenclyff Home	Map 6, Lot 7	107.0 acres	8,093,700
State Forest Division	Map 6, Lot 7	401.0 acres	179,000

United States Dept. of Agriculture:

U.S. Forest Service	W.M.N.F.	23,658.8 acres	\$10,646,500
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Totals		24,174.4 Acres	\$19,349,100
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TOWN OF BENTON
Summary of Inventory Valuation

Land, Improved and Unimproved:	
Under "Current Use" - 5,102.5 acres	\$277,652
Conservation Restriction - 370.1 acres	4,269
Residential Land - 2131.6 acres	4,749,500
Commercial Land - 1.1 acres	20,100
	<hr/>
Total	\$5,051,521
 Tax Exempt Land - 24,174.7 acres	 \$11,032,300
 Tax Exempt Buildings	 \$8,295,400
Housing:	
Residential and Allied Buildings	\$8,576,600
Manufactured Housing	607,300
Commercial Buildings	21,200
	<hr/>
Total	\$9,205,100
 Public Utilities	 \$985,748
 Total Assessments:	 \$15,242,600
Less Elderly Exemptions (2)	15,000
	<hr/>
Net Valuation on which tax rate is computed	\$15,227,600
Less Public Utilities	985,748
	<hr/>
Net Valuation on which tax rate for State	
Education tax is computed	\$14,241,852
Less Veteran's Exemptions	\$600
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Final Total of Inventory Valuation	\$14,241,252
 State Education Tax @ \$3.25	
Local Education Tax Rate @ \$7.32	
County Tax Rate @ \$1.50	
Town Tax Rate @ \$.10	
Total Tax Commitment @12.17	\$180,507

Report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds
For the Year Ending December 31, 2005

Funds donated to the Town of Benton are in the custody of the Trustees. Donations are distributed as specified by the donors. Funds received during the year are deposited in a savings account until they can be transferred to a Certificate of Deposit. Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank in Woodsville, NH holds all funds.

Year 2005 Donations

David Elliot	\$ 80.00
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Status of the Funds is as follows:

Principal Amount in Cemetery Trust Fund, CD Acc't # 708716	\$ 11,064.54
Trust Fund Savings, Account # 617453	\$ 8,668.32
Capital Reserve Fund, CD Acc't # 708751 – Highways, int. inc.	\$ 41,393.14
Capital Reserve Fund, CD Acc't # 617456 – Fires, int. inc.	\$ 4,396.33
Capital Reserve Fund – CD Acc't # 707179 – Schools, int. inc.	\$ 96,949.46
Total	\$162,471.79

Distributions at the end of 2005 from the Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 162.44
For cemetery use	\$ 108.23
For the schools	\$ 28.51
For the highway account	\$ 25.70
Total	\$ 162.44

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Richardson
Jeffrey Elliot
Martin Noble

January 30, 2006

Note from the Trustees of the Trust Fund

In January 2006, The Trustees agreed to break the Schools Trust CD into two Certificates of Deposit for a number of reasons:

- SAU23 will probably have a bill for Benton in the spring that will need to come from this account and the CD paralyzes us to a degree, since we cannot pay until August.
- Accounts of more than \$100,000 are not insured by the FDIC

Thus, the existing 6-month CD account #707179 will have \$80,000 and the new 3-month CD account, #720438 will have the balance, \$17,184.12. Then, at Town Meeting, we can make some decisions about securing our money in a safer, more flexible manner.

The Town of Benton needs to develop a plan for Benton Funds in general. In 2005, the State of New Hampshire requested proof of improvement of security, collateralization or what-have-you. The FDIC insures the total amount under a Federal Employer Identification Number at a given institution up to \$100,000. If that institution fails – goes out of business – the total the insured receives is \$100,000. Currently, our Trust Funds total \$162,471.79, not to mention funds for operating the town itself. There are several options that the Trustees would like to research:

- Woodsville Guaranty offers a CDARS, a new service for large-deposit investors. Our CD funds remain the same, we continue to earn interest, and we can manage all of these accounts through Woodsville Guaranty.
- Breaking some of the larger CD into smaller sums will allow us to pay bills when bills are due and continue to have these accounts earn interest.
- Money Market funds will earn us less interest, but will create flexibility for bill-paying and we won't be subject to the FDOC \$100,000 cap for insurance.

Another point we would like to mention is that the passbooks used to track interest in Certificates of Deposit at Woodsville Guaranty have been replaced with actual Certificates.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Richardson

Town Meeting – Benton, New Hampshire March 8, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by the moderator Gil Richardson.
Motion to recess to the School Meeting. Reconvened Town Meeting at 7:25 PM.

Article 1

To choose a Town Clerk, a Treasurer, a Tax Collector, an Auditor, a Ballot Clerk, a Ballot Inspector, a Sexton, an Assistant to the Sexton, and a Surveyor of Wood and Lumber, all for a term of one year, a Selectman for a term of three years, a Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three years, a Member of the Planning Board for a term of five years, and any other Agents or Officers necessary for the ensuing year.

The following Town Officers were elected (by the Town Clerk or Moderator casting one ballot after a voice vote):

Board of Selectman	3 Yr Term	Jeremey Elliott
Town Clerk	1 Yr Term	Michael Stiebitz
Treasurer	1 Yr Term	Richard Dickenson
Tax Collector	1 Yr Term	Sharon Edwards
Auditor	1 Yr Term	Robert Steel
Ballot Clerk	1 Yr Term	Steven Saffo
Ballot Inspector	1 Yr Term	Maxine Tyler
Sexton	1 Yr Term	Philip Chicoine
Sexton Assistant	1 Yr Term	Martin Noble
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	1 Yr Term	Joseph N. Boutin, Jr
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 Yr Term	Laura Richardson
Member of the Planning Board	5 Yr Term	Philip Chicoine
Other Agents as Required	-	None Required

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of Officers and Agents as printed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed and passed by a voice vote.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to finish rewiring the Community Building. This sum to be added to the balance of the Special Fund voted in as Article 5 of the March 2002 Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written and passed by a voice vote.

Town Meeting – Benton New Hampshire
March 8, 2005

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be reserved in a non-lapsing, special account toward Re-evaluation Fund when it is demanded by the State of New Hampshire.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written and passed by a voice vote.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw \$20,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund For Roads, to be used to rebuild the bridge on Tunnel Stream Road at the crossing of Davis Brook.

A motion was made to accept the article and discussion began. Marjorie explained that the plan is to build a 12" thick reinforced concrete slab on top of the existing structure. This slab will have pockets cast into it on the outside edges to facilitate guardrail placement. Some remedial concrete work will also be done to the spalling which has occurred along the base of the current structure.

The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$74,427 for General Municipal Operations.

Article 6 was moved and seconded and accepted by voice vote. The Total Budget, including Articles 3, 4, and 5 is now \$79,427.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM. All new Town Officers present were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy
Attest:

Michael P. Stiebitz 3/21/05

Michael Stiebitz – Town Clerk
Benton, New Hampshire
March 21, 2005

Vital Statistics for 2005 Benton, NH

Deaths		Died	Age
Mary Anne Derusha	(Glenclyff Home)	03/02/2005	67
Martha Huston	(Glenclyff Home)	05/08/2005	87
Margaret Viola Ronning	(Glenclyff Home)	06/25/2005	93
Joseph Elias Majdalany Jr.	(Glenclyff Home)	07/11/2005	65
Robert Earl Barnes	(Glenclyff Home)	08/31/2005	70
Owen Michael McKean		10/09/2005	—

Marriages

June 04, 2005	Jean M. Elliott and Mark A. Currier, in Bath, NH
October 08, 2005	Charlene R. Chevalier and Cregg E. Brunnell, in Dalton, NH

Births

November 9, 2005	Owen Michael McKean, son of Jamie Leigh Winget and Seth Michael McKean in Woodsville, NH
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In September of 2004, Edgar Nutt completed his book *Coventry-Benton Revisited*. This was a project of many years of concentrated research, resulting in a book which he offered for sale.

Mr. Nutt is interested in the restoration of Benton's cemeteries. To help achieve this goal, he donated a portion of the gain from each book sold to be put into a special cemetery fund.

Last fall, he and I looked over all of the stones in the East Cemetery, making note of what each marker needed in order to restore it to an upright, secure position, be it broken stones, eroded or absent bases, or leaning stones.

The plan is for Mr. Nutt to head a small group of volunteers to work on one small segment of the cemetery at a time. I look forward to the restoration of this beautiful cemetery and am grateful to Mr. Nutt for his generous vision.

Lyn Bandy

NOTES:

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD

Alexandria Noble, CHAIR	Term Expires 2008
Lara Saffo	Term Expires 2006
Wayne Chevalier	Term Expires 2007

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

Gilbert Richardson.....	Moderator
Maxine Tyler.....	Treasurer
Robert Steel	Auditor
Michael Stiebitz	Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Bruce C. Labs

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 8, 2005**

The meeting opened at: 7:09 PM.

ARTICLE 1

To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

Gilbert Richardson

ARTICLE 2

To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year

Michael Stiebitz

ARTICLE 3

To choose one School Board Member for a term of three years expiring in 2008.

Alexandria Noble

ARTICLE 4

To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Maxine Tyler

ARTICLE 5

To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.

Robert Steel

ARTICLE 6

To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Article 6 was moved and seconded and accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7

To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This Article is exclusive of any other Article on the Warrant. (The school board recommends \$344,651.)

Article 7 was moved and seconded and accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8

To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

No other business was transacted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. All new officers present were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy

Attest:

Michael Stiebitz
Benton School District Clerk
Benton, NH
March 21, 2005

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

To the inhabitants of the School District of Benton in the County of Grafton, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said district on the 14th day of March 2006, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening to act upon the following subjects:

- ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 2: To choose a School Clerk for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 3: To choose one School Board Member, for a term of three years expiring in 2009.
- ARTICLE 4: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 5: To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 6: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote related thereto.
- ARTICLE 7: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This article is exclusive of any other article on the warrant. (The school board recommends \$393,607.00)
- ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands at said Benton this ____ day February 2006

Alexandria Noble, Chairman
Wayne Chevalier
Lara Saffo

BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET 2006-2007

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
10.6.1100.561	REGULAR TUITION	259,460.00	286,830.00	27,370.00
10.6.1200.561	SPECIAL ED. TUITION	29,000.00	28,000.00	(1,000.00)
10.6.1231.564	KING ST. TUITION	-	18,025.00	18,025.00
10.6.1300.562	VOCATIONAL TUITION	6,402.00	8,102.00	1,700.00
10.6.1430.561	SUMMER SCHOOL TUITION	1,450.00	2,250.00	800.00
	subtotal tuition	296,312.00	343,207.00	46,895.00
10.6.2150.330	SPEECH SERVICES	1,330.00	1,480.00	150.00
10.6.2163.330	OT SERVICES	5,515.00	5,215.00	(300.00)
	subtotal therapy services	6,845.00	6,695.00	(150.00)
10.6.2311.111	SCHOOL BOARD SALARIES	600.00	\$600.00	-
10.6.2311.220	FICA	46.00	\$46.00	-
10.6.2311.260	WORKERS' COMP	180.00	\$180.00	-
10.6.2311.520	PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	1,900.00	\$1,800.00	(100.00)
10.6.2311.540	ADVERTISING	180.00	\$180.00	-
10.6.2311.640	BOOKS/PERIODICALS	51.00	\$51.00	-
10.6.2311.810	DUES/FEES	800.00	\$820.00	20.00
	subtotal school board	3,757.00	3,677.00	(80.00)
10.6.2313.111	TREASURER SALARIES	200.00	\$200.00	-
10.6.2313.220	FICA	15.00	\$15.00	-
10.6.2313.260	WORKERS' COMP	60.00	\$60.00	-
10.6.2313.520	PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	265.00	\$198.00	(67.00)
10.6.2313.534	POSTAGE	20.00	\$20.00	-
10.6.2313.610	SUPPLIES	20.00	\$20.00	-
	subtotal treasurer	580.00	513.00	(67.00)
10.6.2314.111	DISTRICT MEETING SALARIES	64.00	\$64.00	-
10.6.2314.220	FICA	5.00	\$5.00	-
10.6.2314.260	WORKERS' COMP	22.00	\$22.00	-
	subtotal district meeting	91.00	91.00	-
10.6.2317.111	AUDIT SALARY	50.00	50.00	-
10.6.2317.220	FICA	5.00	5.00	-
	subtotal audit	55.00	55.00	-
10.6.2318.330	LEGAL SERVICES	250.00	250.00	-
10.6.2321.310	SAU MANAGEMENT SERVICES	8,561.00	9,905.00	1,344.00
10.6.2721.510	REGULAR TRANSPORTATION	17,754.00	\$18,249.00	495.00
10.6.2722.510	SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION	10,100.00	\$10,619.00	519.00
10.6.2723.510	VOC. ED. TRANSPORTATION	325.00	\$325.00	-
	subtotal transportation	28,179.00	29,193.00	1,014.00
10.6.2832.540	ADVERTISING	21.00	21.00	-
		344,651.00	393,607.00	48,956.00

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES

	2004-2005 <u>ACTUAL</u>	2005-2006 <u>REVISED</u>	2006-2007 <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Fund Balance Used to Reduce Taxes	83,073.87	42,421	-	(42,421)
<u>Local</u>				
1111 District Appropriation	101,926.00	110,934	207,904	96,970
1510 Interest	49.99	50	50	-
1980 Refund from Prior Year	72.00	-	-	-
<u>State</u>				
3111 State Adequacy Grant	79,393.00	117,924	117,924	-
3112 State Adequacy Tax	53,495.00	45,967	42,958	(3,009)
3230 Catastrophic Aid		1,084	-	(1,084)
3241 Vocational Education Tuition	3,482.23	-	-	-
3242 Vocational Transportation	396.42	-	-	-
<u>Federal</u>				
4580 Medicaid Reimbursement	11,103.19	11,000	9,500	(1,500)
4810 National Forest Reserve	15,271.48	15,271	15,271	-
TOTAL BUDGET AND ARTICLES	348,263.18	344,651	393,607	48,956

SCHOOL TAX RATE

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL PROJECTED</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>	
	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>
local property Tax Rate	\$6.82	\$7.32	\$13.73	\$15,145
State property Tax Rate	<u>\$3.85</u>	<u>\$3.25</u>	<u>\$3.03</u>	\$14,159
Total School Tax	\$10.67	\$10.57	\$16.76	
Change from prior year	(\$4.81)	(\$0.10)	\$6.19	

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
PREVIOUS TWO FISCAL YEARS PER RSA 32:11-a

		<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>
<u>Special Education Expenses</u>			
1200	Special Programs	17,526	29,811
1430	Summer School	687	-
2150	Speech and Audiology	-	821
2159	Speech - Summer School	-	
2162	Physical Therapy	-	-
2163	Occupational Therapy	4,377	3,243
2722	Special Transportation	5,727	8,736
Total Expenses		28,316	42,610
 <u>Special Education Revenue</u>			
3110	SPED portion of State Adequacy	30,849	30,849
3230	Catastrophic Aid	-	-
4580	Medicaid	9,394	11,103
Total Revenues		40,243	41,952
 District Cost for Special Education		(11,927)	658
 <u>IDEA Entitlement Funds through SAU23</u>			
	Part A - Preschool	486	486
	(Combined to fund Haverhill preschool)		
	Part B - Special Education	2,605	2,605
	(Combined to provide SAU-wide psychological services)		

**REPORT OF THE BENTON SCHOOL
DISTRICT TREASURER
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2005**

Cash on Hand, July 1, 2004	\$ 9,204.87
Total Revenues Received	340,707.97
Total School Board Orders Paid	-308,645.16
Cash on Hand June 30, 2005	41,267.68

Maxine Tyler, School District Treasurer

**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Balance Sheet - General Fund
6-30-05**

ASSETS

Cash	41,267.68
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RECEIVABLES

Accounts	-
Intergovernmental	2,266.22
Prepaid Items	-

TOTAL ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	43,533.90
--------------------------------------	------------------

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

<u>Liabilities</u>	-
Other Payables	1,112.99

TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,112.99
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Equity

Fund Balances

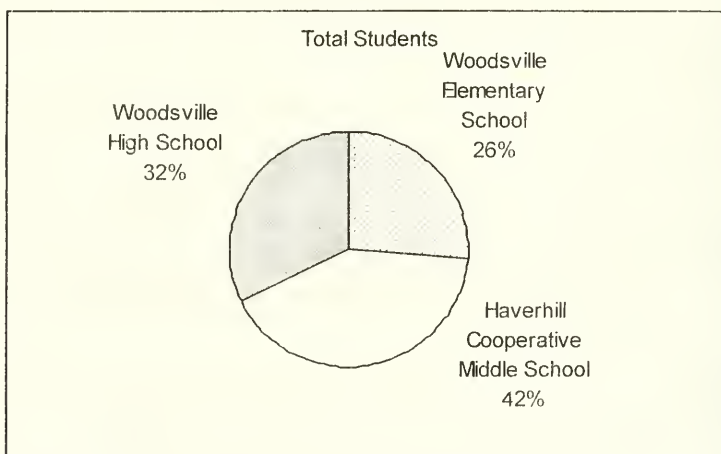
Reserved for Encumbrances	-
Reserved for Special Purposes	-
Unreserved	42,420.91

TOTAL EQUITY	42,420.91
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	43,533.90
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**BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENTS TUITIONED TO HAVERHILL
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AS OF JUNE 2005**

	<u>Total Students</u>	<u>Total Tuition Costs Per School</u>
Woodsville Elementary School	9	\$53,225.10
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	14	\$93,577.68
Woodsville High School	11	\$74,465.72
TOTAL	34	\$221,268.50



HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER QUALITY REPORT

Education Level Of Faculty And Administration At Each School
(In Full Time Equivalents)

	BA	BA+15	MA	MA+30
WES Teachers	5.5	11.5	3.25	1
WES Administration				1
HCMS Teachers	12.5	3.2	12.9	2.2
HCMS Administration			1	1
WHS Teachers	9	13.8	6.5	2
WHS Administration			2	

Number Of Teachers With Emergency/Provisional Certification

Woodsville Elementary School	1
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	2.5
Woodsville High School	1.5

Number Of Core Academic Courses Not Taught By Highly
Qualified Teachers

Woodsville Elementary School	0
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	0
Woodsville High School	0

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

As a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or Legal guardian, you have the right to know:

1. Who is teaching your child
2. The qualifications and experience of your child's teacher(s)

For information concerning your child's teacher(s), please contact the Superintendent's Office at:

SAU #23
2975 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
603-787-2113

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

It gives me a great sense of pride to communicate to you the progress we are making in our school system. I believe we have taken meaningful steps which will show in the future progress of our students.

Work continues in each of our schools to improve students' writing skills with the help of our Writing Consultant, Diana Leddy. Now in our third year of this work, we are seeing positive results in the confidence our teachers have gained as well as the performance of our students in all activities that involve writing.

We have implemented the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Testing Program which we believe will give us a better understanding of the progress of our students in math and reading. Our students are using computer technology to take these tests, and the teaching staff is able to see the results the next day. Pre and post testing will be done in the fall and the spring so we can monitor progress made during the year. These tests should help us to identify areas of student weaknesses and strengths which will allow us to more personalize learning for our students.

Technology has significantly improved in all of the SAU schools. It is our intent to use technology to support instruction and help promote higher order thinking skills. The staff is working hard to improve their skills in order to make classroom work differentiated, dynamic, and in line with students' needs.

All of the schools continue to work on School Improvement Plans in the interest of our students; using staff development time to keep these improvement plans active in each school.

This year, in cooperation with the Joan and James Leitzel Center at UNH, the Haverhill schools have begun an organized approach to improving our math program in grades K-8. We expect our teachers will gain new strategies as they bring new materials to work with and use in their classrooms.

We are very proud of the support the taxpayers have given us in the last few years to help maintain the Haverhill school buildings. We believe that district-wide the facilities are now in the best shape they have been in the last twenty years. In the last year we have improved the air quality and efficiency of all our buildings which should foster a positive return for us now and in the future.

This year brought a new bussing contract, bringing together all of the SAU #23 school districts and BMU. This contract saves money for all of the school districts and I believe it will benefit us over our five-year contract.

I will continue to make decisions in the interest of the students while working to improve our schools. It is only with the help of a very competent staff that I am able to be effective as your superintendent. I look forward to your continued support; it is something I will never take for granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce C. Labs
Superintendent of Schools

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23
REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S AND
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARIES**

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expenses are prorated among the school districts on the basis of adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of SAU #23, during the 2005-2006 school year will receive a salary of \$82,268. There is no Assistant Superintendent or Business Administrator at SAU 23 at this time.

The table below shows the pro-ration of the salary to each school district:

Superintendent Salary

Bath	9,641.81	11.72%
Benton	1579.54	1.92%
Haverhill Cooperative	55,127.79	67.01%
Piermont	8,712.18	10.59%
Warren	7,206.68	8.76%
TOTAL	\$82,268	100%

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23 PROJECTED REVENUES

	<u>2005 - 2006</u>	<u>2006 - 2007</u>	<u>+/-</u>
LOCAL REVENUE OTHER THAN ASSESSMENT			
1320 Tuition - French Pond	190,550	144,200	(46,350)
1321 Tuition - King Street School	144,200	162,225	18,025
1325 Tuition -French Pond Summer School	8,400	7,635	(765)
1950 Itinerants	237,307	231,507	(5,800)
1951 Speech/ Language	128,713	183,670	54,957
1990 Other local revenue (town internet line fees)	178	-	
1510 Interest	500	3,225	2,725
5000 Indirect Costs from SAU IDEA Grant	5,000	6,900	1,900
Use of Fund Balance	<u>80,123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(80,123)</u>
Total Other Revenue Fund I	794,971	739,362	(55,609)
 1111 DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	 445,877	 593,095	 147,218
TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUES - GENERAL FUND	1,240,848	1,332,457	91,609
 GRANTS - IDEA & preschool	 <u>250,754</u>	 <u>267,108</u>	 <u>16,354</u>
TOTAL SAU BUDGET INCLUDING GRANTS	1,491,602	1,599,565	107,963

SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSESSMENT SHARES	
Bath	66,605
Benton	9,905
Haverhill	394,111
Piermont	67,791
Warren	<u>54,683</u>
TOTAL ASSESSED TO DISTRICTS	593,095

SAU 23 APPROVED BUDGET 2006-2007

Function	Description	04-05 Expenses	05-06 Budget	Proposed Budget	Budget inc-dec
1100	ITINERANT TEACHERS	123,585	136,079	143,335	7,256
1230	FRENCH POND SCHOOL	179,324	182,108	167,959	(14,149)
1231	KING STREET SCHOOL	144,235	140,738	152,704	11,966
1430	FRENCH POND SUMMER SCHOOL	6,935	7,415	7,635	220
2120	GUIDANCE SERVICES	26,144	27,567	18,729	(8,838)
2150	SPEECH SERVICES	118,656	123,495	183,670	60,175
2159	SUMMER SCHOOL SPEECH	4,947	5,218	10,330	5,112
2220	TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR	59,136	62,462	74,670	12,208
	SUBTOTAL NON ASSESSMENT ITEMS	662,962	685,032	759,032	73,950
2212	CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT	-	50	50	-
2311	SCHOOL BOARD	1,369	1,635	1,683	48
2313	TREASURER	2,236	2,340	2,338	(2)
2317	AUDIT	4,715	5,000	5,000	-
2318	LEGAL COUNSEL	336	500	350	(150)
2321	CENTRAL OFFICE	327,535	361,478	371,208	9,730
2330	SPECIAL NEEDS OFFICE	126,226	133,856	139,930	6,074
2540	SAU-WIDE PUBLIC RELATIONS	2,248	3,000	3,000	-
2620	BUILDING RENT	20,593	21,000	21,000	-
2640	EQUIPMENT	3,686	4,350	3,470	(880)
2810	RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT	800	675	1,500	825
2820	COMPUTER NETWORK	14,492	21,382	23,595	2,213
2832	RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING	211	500	300	(200)
	SUBTOTAL ASSESSMENT ITEMS	504,447	555,766	573,425	17,659
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	1,167,409	1,240,848	1,332,457	91,609
GRANTS					
	IDEA PRESCHOOL	7,647	7,834	7,834	-
	IDEA SPECIAL EDUCATION	242,828	242,920	259,274	16,354
		250,475	250,754	267,108	16,354
	GRAND TOTAL SAU 23 PROPOSED BUDGET	1,417,884	1,491,602	1,599,565	107,963
SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COSTS					
		445,877	445,877	593,095	

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